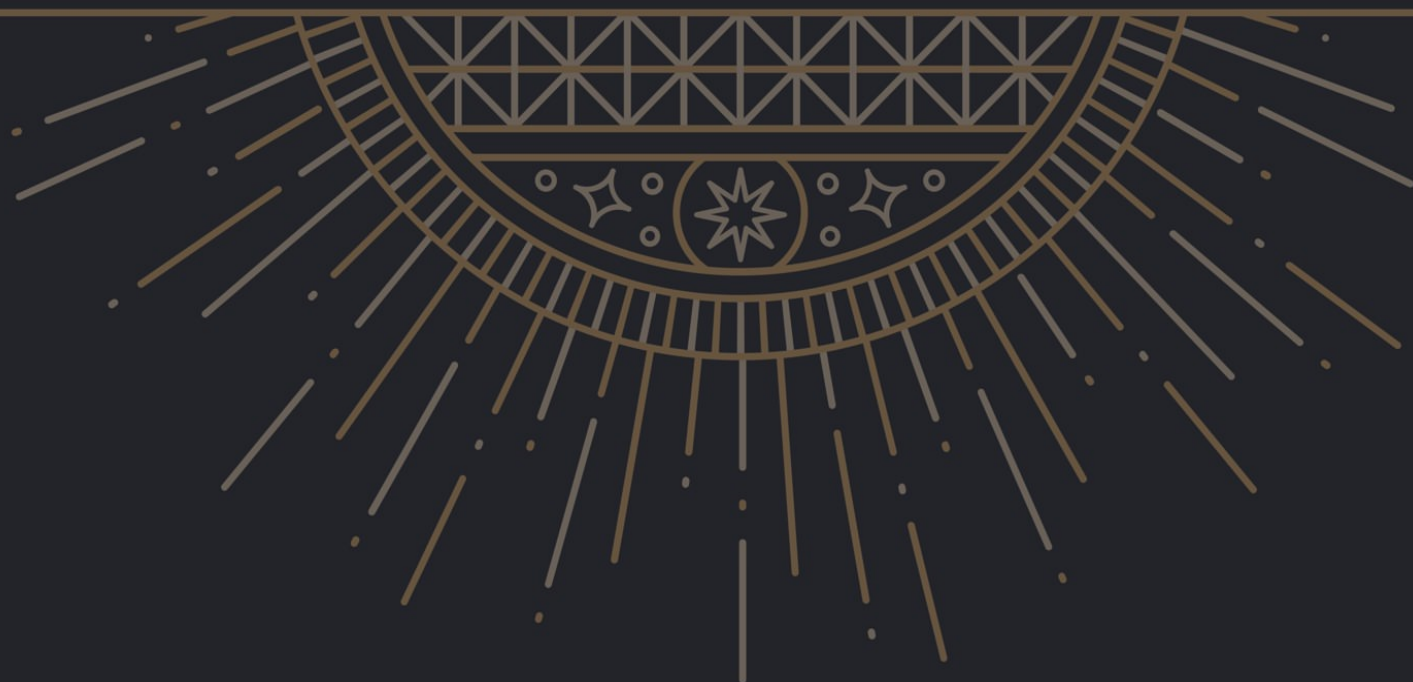




Lazy Dungeon Master



Volume 9 – Let's Develop
the Dungeon

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Volume Nine - Let's Develop the Dungeon

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Chapter 84 - The Naming Ceremony

All three of the newbies reached the point of being able to work at reception. As promised, I think I should give them names soon.

I decided to call the three of them over to the dungeon's boss room to name them.

Well, though I could just have it done with saying, "Ah, here are you guys' new names," in the inn, this seems to be something very important for monsters. I'm a dungeon master that can read the mood after all.

The production value is important.

If I grandly perform the naming ceremony like this, they'll definitely pledge even more loyalty.

Therefore, I decided to remodel the tasteless stone boss room.

First is the throne. I placed importance on its appearance since it'll rarely be used to sit. I made the throne using stone that gave a profound feeling and I made it around two steps higher than the ground, that way invaders could be looked down on even while sitting down. It wouldn't feel off even if a demon king sat in it. Because stone isn't a luxurious material, another important thing is that I wouldn't look out of place even if I sat on it.

After that, I placed a stone runner rug that went straight from the entrance to the throne... Well, since the floor was already made of stone, I just had to arrange it a bit... Yep, there's just a difference in how much the pattern is used, but it's turned into something like a temple, I guess? It's mostly grey though. Then I made the steps for the throne.

Coming this far, I also fixed up the walls and added some pillars. They're unnecessary since they're just decoration though. Again, it felt kind of like a pantheon temple... how should I say... authentic? Authentic. I guess.

In the end, I made some statues of golems that were holding up weapons by growing them from the wall. Just in case, I also equipped them with blade golems so they're practical goods.

Fuu... I only exerted myself since my creative urge welled up.

“I was wondering what Kehma was up to since you hadn’t slept for a while... this is so amazingly awesome!”

“My confidence is wavering since Rokuko’s the one saying that...”

“Eh—what!? But that should help your confidence!”

“Because you have that weird hobby of being a goblin lover right? That’s why it’s possible that goblins are your basis for ‘awesome’...”

“That’s a harmful rumor! Even I think dragons and stuff look awesome you know?”

Ooh, dragons huh. Dragons definitely are cool. Since I’ve seen a living red dragon, maybe I should try out making a dragon golem next time? I’d love it to spit fire or something if possible.

... Aah, it’d definitely be weak compared to the real thing though~. The best material I can use right now is just iron. Thinking about that reduces my motivation. Though well, it might be good to try and make it as practice in preparation for the future when I can use better materials.

The current boss is an iron haniwa golem I finished the other day... let’s make the next boss an iron dragon golem.

“Oh right, how about calling them soon? You guuuuys, go to your posts!”

“You should call for Meat and Ichika too if you’re done with the golems you know~”

Like that, I had the golems form lines and began the naming ceremony.

*

The dungeon [Cave of Desires].

The first above ground floor had the entrance, traps, goblins, as well as some treasure chests.

There were wandering golems as well as the magic sword test room in the first underground floor, the second being the [Multi-Floor Labyrinth].

When passing through the labyrinth, one would ascend. It goes up to the second above ground floor in one go.

The second above ground floor is the [Riddle Area], where wisdom and knowledge are tested... no intruders have went beyond this yet.

When one passes the [Riddle Area], they would descend from the second above ground floor to the third underground floor with the [Open Ceiling Spiral Staircase].

The third underground layer has a unique golem... the first generation boss' normal haniwa golems and the like, it was a [Golem Warehouse Area] that I had irregular prototype golems patrol. There are magic sword blade golems placed in chests here.

After breaking through all of those, there's a fourth underground floor... the [Boss Room Area].

(Still, I'll be adding sequential floors below it starting from the fifth underground floor. I plan on spreading the dungeon towards Sia's town district.)

Right now, at this time, the [Boss Room] was very crowded.

... Though I say that, other than the armored golems that were lined up beautifully, there's just me, the dungeon master, Rokuko, the dungeon core, and the slaves Meat and Ichika—oh, and that pet phoenix (chick), Feni.

As for what Rokuko was wearing, it was a white dress that looked great on her slender body's silhouette. I made that guy modelling after Haku-san's dress, it's Rokuko's favorite. The white phoenix (chick) on her shoulder matched it nicely. Meat and Ichika were wearing their maid outfits. They weren't their usual ones but brand new ones.

In other words, everyone was dressed up.

Of course, my appearance is like that too.

I'm in a full-body silver armor with a red mantle. I made the gold leaf by crushing gold coins to make it even more imposing... Really though, the armor is just iron armor that's been plated. Also, it's so heavy that I can't move it on my own. I can move since it's an armor golem, but I'll definitely be injured if I make an awkward movement.

I am sitting on the throne.

Rokuko stood right by my side, with Meat and Ichika standing on either side of the aisle one step down.

Standing on both sides of the stone path coming from the entrance to the

throne, the armed golems had formed ranks in intervals, lining up and holding their swords up.

The image of [Meeting the King]. Well, a dungeon master is kind of like a king so it's probably not wrong.

I used [Deployment] on the three in front of the door. With this, preparations are complete.

I told them that I'd be doing their naming ceremony beforehand, but I didn't tell them that I'd do it so elaborately like this. Kukuku, I wonder what kind of faces they'll have.

"Enter!"

When I called out, the boss room's doors... massive double doors that also had gold leaf, the golems opened them.

I could see the three girls that had been standing in front of the door—they were surprised just for a moment before immediately entering the room with serious expressions... Hooh, maybe I should do something?

"Halt. Kneel."

They kneeled in a row, with Alpha the vampire in the middle, Beta the silky on the left, and Gamma the apprentice witch on the right.

"Now, I will conduct the naming ceremony."

I put strength into my gut to make my words as strong as possible, speaking proudly. This is getting fun.

By the way, since there isn't a ceremony like the naming ceremony to begin with, there's no etiquette for it either. Well, [When in Rome].

"Ye whom this one hath granted life, as in accordance with the agreement, shall be bestowed with names."

I stood up slowly while receiving assistance from the full body armor golem, unsheathing the sword at my waist.

Made with potion bottles, the sword had a transparent blade. The sword somehow reflected blue light, so it looked really mysterious... It's offensive power? It'd break if it got hit. The sword would, that is. It's for etiquette, etiquette.

“Alpha, raise thy head.”

“Sir!”

As I spoke, Alpha looked up... Ummm, let's see, what should her name be...

“To thee, the name of Rei is bestowed.”

“Sir! It is my honor!”

I said ‘thee’! Hahaha. Well whatever, I was going with the flow.

As for the name's origin, it's because she has zero offensive capability. It's easy to remember that way.

... Yep, even though you're really happy, somehow... sorry? It was such a fitting name.

Well, next.

“Beta, raise thy head.”

“Yes.”

Her bearing is more gentle than Alpha's... err, Rei's. No, maybe I should call it more graceful?

“To thee, the name of Kinue is bestowed.”

“I shall accept it reverently.”

Her name's origin is silky -> silk -> kinu -> Kinue... yeah.

I thought about calling her Okinu-san, but since it was a more popular name and Kinue is closer, it became Kinue...

Now for the last one.

“Gamma, raise thy head.”

“Okay~”

Ah, yep. Beta, now Kinue, is more gentle... and this one is more carefree. Definitely.

“To thee, the name of Nerune is bestowed.”

“Thank you very much, master~”

Her name is because she's a witch.

... Eh? What does Nerune have to do with witches? Let's see... here, isn't there the image of stirring something in a cauldron? Stirring until the color changes

right? Right? Yeah.

And again, I'm not your master.

Well everyone is named with relatively irresponsible names, but since it's from another world I probably won't be exposed.

Rather, Rokuko would probably be happy knowing that the names came from another world.

That's all for the naming ceremony. I had it so that the golems would applaud when I finished up in a loud voice.

Now then, the closing words are important... wonder what I should say...?

"Ah~, hey Kehma. It's fine to end it already you know? Alright! Rei, Kinue, Nerune. Do your best for the dungeon from now on!"

At that moment, the golems' solid hands' applause sounded like a storm. Dangit Rokuko, she took away the good part!

Chapter 85 - Extra: Worries (Rei's Point of View)

(Rei's Point of View)

“... There's nothing today either, is there.”

I am Rei the vampire—a monster.

Summoned to a dungeon, it is a monster's duty to repel intruders...

That's how it should be, but my job is to welcome intruders.

The other day, I received the name 'Rei' and became a named monster. The title of named monster is something amazing that is fit for bosses alone. In spite of that, my job is that of an inn's receptionist. Moreover, assistance.

As I received my name grandly through a naming ceremony, even though I want to contribute to the dungeon by all means, it's honestly a letdown. I mean, mowing down intruders and crushing them, I want to raise the dungeon's DP like that.

However, this dungeon's dungeon master is Kehma-sama, a human. In other words, he chose the path of living a long life by buttering up to the humans that were the same race as him... No, there's no doubt that master has also sharpened his fangs. Even if he's usually sleepy, the feeling of supremacy emanating from him during the naming ceremony was unbelievable.

That gold and silver was gorgeous, and despite that the armor worn on his body wasn't tasteless. Just recalling that shining and transparent sword blade equipped on master's honorable figure is enough for me to once again swear my allegiance.

... However, my assigned job is as an inn's receptionist.

"Haah..."

I opened the window of the room that was allotted to me and looked towards the sky... The sun is dazzling, such horrid weather.

I reaffirmed that I could bathe in sunlight once again. Even though I am a vampire, I am alright with the sun's light.

Vampires originally have many weak points.

However, they won't have any weak points at all if they become true ancestors. Able to exercise overwhelming might in both physical means and magic means, they could swagger not only through the night but under daylight as well. That is a true ancestor. Starting as a vampire, it is the strongest existence.

There were also existences known as common vampires, those that held resistance towards one weak point, like atavism.

Among vampires, it's said there is something known as true ancestor atavism.

I am one of those who has true ancestor atavism, holding such resistances. Or maybe it's already enough to call me a true ancestor?

... However, that's without my curse: offensive power of zero.

Or more precisely, I can't use any vampire abilities. With this I'm the same as a normal human, no, worse than a human. I even have less fighting strength than a goblin.

So again, I sighed.

At first, I'd thought about what a monster without any fighting capability could do. When I heard that I would be working at an inn, I thought I would be working like a succubus.

However, I assumed the position of receptionist, conveying costs to the guests that occasionally arrived, receiving money, and handing them back the change. That's all. The [Abacus] tells me how many coins are needed for cost and change calculations. It's fine if I just don't make a mistake in counting the coins... Is there any meaning in my existence? It's that easy a job.

Like that, I work a job that anyone could do and am given meals and a residence. I have been given something very good. It even seems that I eat the

same thing as master and Rokuko-sama... I couldn't possibly afford it. Rather, when I think that Ichika-sense and Meat-senpai are renting two of the inn's rooms, it could be said that we who were given private rooms were given good treatment.

... I can't understand just what in the world master is thinking. Aren't I just a normal pet like this? No, even a pet would work to heal their owner, am I not below a pet?

This is... bad. As a prideful vampire, this is a grave situation.

I can't retain my pride if I don't help master somehow or another. Even though I received a name, it's like that.

There was a tapping sound at my room's door.

Who is it? Well, obvious. Kinue, the silky.

As the first step to master teaching her magic, Nerune, the apprentice witch, is learning her job and magic from Meat-senpai. Since it isn't mealtime right now, it's probably magic time.

Master and Rokuko-sama could use the dungeon's contact function if they had a task for me. Ichika-sensei wouldn't imitate elegance by just knocking but would call me while knocking.

Since the inn's established [Employee Dormitory] is off limits to everyone but staff, the only person left is Kinue.

"Rei-san, I would like to clean."

"... Kinue. By using [Cleanup] to clean, you don't have to bring cleaning tools you know."

"If [Cleanup] could finish all of the cleaning, there wouldn't be any cleaning tools."

"E-even so..."

This silky seems to like cleaning without using [Cleanup] for some reason. Even though I know what kind of race silkys are because of the information imprinted on me when master summoned me, this girl is praiseworthy, she just cleaned a little earlier.

Well, I leave it to her though since living in a clean room is comfortable.

"Then I'll be cleaning, so please leave."

Like that, I was driven out.

... There's nothing to do. Hmm.

Come to think of it, along with cleaning the inn, Kinue is also studying cooking. Nerune is training in magic too... if I could also use magic, I might be useful to the inn somehow.

... I'm the only one that's useless, aren't I... I don't like it. Wouldn't my only use right now be night services...

"Eheheh, nights are your specialty since you're a vampire right?"

"T-that's—please return my clothes!"

"Eating and living idly for you is a waste, there's no choice for you but this."

... that kind of situation.

... Uu, my face reddened by thinking about something weird.

Although I wouldn't hesitate if the other person was master, at any rate, I have to be use helpful somehow.

Wondering what I should do for now as I stood in front of my room, I left the inn for a stroll.

Even though the weather was detestable with the sun blazing down, it's fine for the current me.

Walking for a short while, there was a field. Golems that master set to work were harvesting crops.

Although there were several other kinds of vegetables as well, it appeared that right now it was harvesting beet-radishes to make into sugar... Should I help with the harvest?

"..."

... There's nowhere for me to help. The golems perfectly filled the simple work. Moreover since I don't have order rights for these golems, I'd only be a hindrance if I tried to forcibly help. Since golems don't tire, there's no reason for me to purposely help out either.

Ugugugu. So I'm useless here too?

I continued walking.

I came along to [Great Tsuia Mountain Tunnel]... Hmm. So what.

The cave costs money to enter, so there's no reason for me to enter it either.

... Ah, a merchant is passing through.

Burdened with a wooden rack on his back, it was the type of trader called a peddling adventurer.

Most of the traders that pass through here ferry salt from Pavuera to Sia to sell. From there, they would ferry dried vegetables and woodwork from Sia to sell in Pavuera.

Oh, I could also earn money like that... No, to begin with I can't do math that properly. Not without [Abacus]-san's assistance...

Uu, I need to continue studying my [Times Table]. Oh, but before that I need to figure out addition and subtraction, don't I...

I'm not good at math... I wonder if there's anything I can do...

... Next time, let's consult with master about if there's nothing I can do.

Ahh mou, I'm fed up with not being able to do anything.

I received a name at long last, I don't want to be useless!

Chapter 86 - Rei's Consultation

Finishing the naming ceremony, I thought of something.

Don't things like loyalty not matter since I had absolute order rights?

... No, even if I have them, they should surely be overflowing with willingness even while working like this. Maybe. Definitely.

But that armor really was a pain to put on and take off. Full plate isn't something you should wear.

Now now, how about let's peek at how the dungeon's doing today?

By the way, it's our dungeon but no one's dead in it... it's not like it's peaceful, in fact it seems like some number of E-Rank adventurers died in the dungeon. Rookies that aren't careful enough would easily get caught by the traps.

Even so, since it's not at the level yet where people would die even if they're being careful, this dungeon—[Cave of Desires]—has taken on the significance of being a perfect rite of passage for rookies. It's a dungeon for beginners.

Well, there's even a magic sword test room to show it off established in the labyrinth area.

I built three more rooms since it was so popular, but nowadays there's talk about there definitely being magic swords in the dungeon. It seems there's even an adventurer that heard that and is locked up in the dungeon right now.

... Seems like the guy didn't hear about there being a well-known [Greed Trap] here from the guild. Maybe I should just leave him alone? Though I'm thinking

about that, it's probably better to save him from the brink of death and demand payment from him.

But I don't think I can expect any returns from idiots that can't even gather information from the guild about the dungeon, they even say, "You can leave if you return the magic sword to the pedestal"...

Oh he just said, "I'm a rich family's third son, Drasan! I can't die in a place like this!" An aristocrat huh. It looks like there'd be a return, but saving him seems tiresome. I'll pass.

It's his own responsibility since it's a dungeon. Let's ignore him if a rescue commission doesn't come from the guild.

Since his comrades that looked like followers were getting irritated, there are ways for them to die other than starvation.

Things can happen in a dungeon. There's nothing strange about it even if people die. There wouldn't even be a body left since the dungeon eats it. Not being saved from an instant death trap, eaten by a monster after letting your guard down, there are nearly infinite explanations for it.

Furthermore there aren't even any witnesses outside of those in the room, and everyone's armed. Yup, I look forward to the DP I'll be getting.

The customer is always right. They are our gods. Amen.

Ah, but there's another adventurer besides me exploring the labyrinth area right now, maybe there's a story there?

How about I secretly make him unable to come to this test room?

Fufufu, they're saying stuff like, "Rescue is definitely coming soon." It might take a while you know? Setting the aristocrat aside, his followers' DP are delicious.

While I was observed such a pleasant situation in the dungeon, Rei came over with a serious expression on. It seemed she wanted to discuss something with me.

"... I-I want to be useful for the dungeon! I'll do anything, please give me some work!"

Seriously? When did she turn into such a corporate sheep? No, it's a dungeon,

so maybe it'd be a dungeon sheep? When did she become such a dungeon sheep? ... It's definitely because of the naming ceremony!

Well, honestly you're helping me enough just by working as the inn's receptionist...

"I also want to do things that benefit the dungeon like Kinue and Nerune... for master!"

"... Well, you're helpful enough just being a receptionist you know?"

"Master doesn't have to sugarcoat it. There's no mistake that I'm a defective vampire. It's to the point that I even make mistakes counting coins..."

Oi, don't make mistakes there. Maybe I should automate that too... Like a register... wait, come to think of it I already made something that works like that in the slot machine, I could just make something similar...

But work for Rei huh? Rather, I can't think of something for a vampire that has no offensive power or special abilities. I just made her on my own, but I haven't thought about any other time of work for her at all other than as an inn employee... Wonder if there's any good ideas?

When I looked down a little to avert my eyes away from Rei's serious gaze, I saw the dungeon map being displayed.

... Come to think of it, your own offensive power has nothing to do with your ability to move the dungeon's monsters around.

I've been ordering them around remotely by using a golem, but Rei could do that too right?

Or rather, Rei can't open the menu huh?

Well, I think it's fine to give her the authority for the menu, but... she's a dungeon monster. I don't think it's normal to entrust the dungeon to subordinates...

"So I can't do anything to help master after all..."

"Ah, sorry, sorry. I was just thinking about something."

I looked through the menu... Oh, there it is.

Let's see, grant authority. Possible targets are [Gobsuke], [Feni], [Rei], [Kinue], and [Nerune]... wait, why's Gobsuke there!? The others are white, just Gobsuke's displayed as grey!

Maybe I can't delete named entries? Uwaaah. Making I should stop naming so casually. I don't like things being so mixed up like that.

I don't see Meat and Ichika, so I guess a connection with the dungeon is needed after all?

"Right, let's hang out and try a bit of an experiment."

"Y-yes! Since I'm a vampire, I am somewhat stronger than humans, so there is no problem at all even if you do it violently!"

I got her agreement, so for now let's authorize Rei in the menu as a partner. In addition, it looks like there's even options to fine tune its range. The dungeon and inn are specified in the range, and... restrict DP usage? Eh, wait, what? Hold up, it's saying that I don't need to personally handle the food?

Uwaah, I should have looked into this a bit more seriously. Well, there may have been a requirement of having five or more named monsters or something. Okay, permission for this, permission for that. Quantity of items and amount of DP that can be used is limited, permission given!

Managing the menu is for the management. They were originally management candidates after all... if it goes well with Rei, let's give some permissions to Kinue and Nerune later.

"Alright, let's see if you can take it out."

"Fueh!? T-take what out... m-milk!? Breast milk!?"

"Wait. The menu, menuuu."

The heck is she talking about breast milk for?

"S-sorry. Master was looking at my chest so..."

... Now that she mentions it, the menu is invisible huh. Crap, I'm not a pervert. Hm? Looking at it another way... couldn't I look at legs if I just say I'm looking at the menu? Ah, no, in the end wouldn't I just be a person whose only goal is to look at legs? Let's stop there.

"Menu, come out! I see, I was authorized as a partner so I can see it, and can make it invisible... so you were looking at the menu while it was invisible!"

"That's right."

In the end it looked like she could make the menu appear. With this I should

be able to entrust her with moving the monsters and monitoring the dungeon. She's originally a race that's good at combat, so she'll definitely do well.

“Like this, let's have you help out the dungeon.”

Continuing the experiment, I confirmed that I could take away and return her authority.

She looked incredibly happy that she can help, but there was a possibility that I couldn't have given it back after taking away the authority again... it's alright. I wouldn't have abandoned her even if I couldn't grant the authority back to her.

Chapter 87 -Let's Pay Back the Loan

The number of staff that can manage the dungeon has increased. That is in other words, the dungeon can be managed without it being unreasonable even if it was larger. For the time being, let's expand the dungeon towards Sia. The underground can be used for whatever.

Come to think of it, I've been expanding the dungeon's domain above ground, but it'll become something hard to deal with if I don't divide it into different floors and an intruder enters.

I didn't split [Great Tsuia Mountain Tunnel] into multiple floors at first, so I wasn't able to remodel anything if there was even a single person inside it. I had to rush and divide it into floors by separating it into several blocks.

Even the plaza in front of where people enter the dungeon that the inn is at is on a different floor from the dungeon.

... It seems it can become a floor even if it isn't divided with a staircase, just what is a floor...? I've been trying to figure that out recently.

Furthermore, it takes 5,000 DP to set a floor. Although we have more income now than we used to... it's still a pretty big expense. I wonder how much days' profit it is?

Adventurers that come here are between E and C-Rank. That's around 30-80 DP generated per person naturally. Parties are somewhere between two and five people and two or three parties enter at a time.

The amount of DP produced doubles when they're shut in one of the inn's rooms too, and there's also the inn's income... the calculations are complicated.

Should I make an accounting book? ... Sounds bothersome. Let's hope that Menu-san gets a feature like that sometime.

Also, Haku-san leaves stuff like payments or tips to Rokuko whenever she comes to stay even if we start losing DP, so maybe there's not much of a reason to figure it out? That woman really does spend lavishly.

Cream soda is her favorite so she orders one immediately, one at dinner, one when taking a bath and another when going to bed. She buys each one with a gold coin and even gives Rokuko 5,000 DP tips. She has that kind of condition. She's too kind to her imouto.

At any rate, I should probably add more floors and move the boss room down.

Although the riddle area still hasn't been captured, I'm a bit uneasy that the only things guarding after it's broken through are golems.

Let's assume there's an adventurer that specializes in golems. That person would win against golems easily.

If they went beyond the riddle area, our dungeon, [Cave of Desires], would be laid bare.

... Golems can only use physical attacks huh... At minimum, I'd like some guys that could use magic attacks.

For that, it'd be necessary to use DP.

"Let's raise some money."

"What's the matter, Kehma? Why so sudden? We're getting a lot of money from the inn and toll fee aren't we?"

Come to think of it, I still haven't returned the DP I borrowed from Rokuko for that dungeon battle against [Flame Cavern] huh.

Rather, when I added floors in a rush to deal with the problem of not being able to remodel the dungeon, I borrowed even more. I handed her gold coins as collateral, but Rokuko couldn't use them herself even if she has the gold coins...

"I want to return the DP I borrowed from Rokuko."

"I don't mind. Kehma and I are partners in body and mind after all."

"It's because you're my important partner that I have to do this properly. I don't want anything strange to happen and it get complicated."

“... If Kehma says so, well let’s do it properly then? Fufun, you’re my important partner after all! Don’t want it to get complicated you know!”

Rokuko looks like she’s really happy for some reason. After being alone for so many years, she’s probably happy that she has someone as a partner I guess. I opened the menu and checked how much DP I had.

“Let’s see, you’ve borrowed 53,000 DP so far? I’m holding fifty three gold coins as collateral... How much DP does the dungeon have without mine?”

“Since we summoned those three the other day... just short of 9,000 remaining.”

I handed her the gold coins as collateral, but since they would be worth 53,000 DP if we used them as is, the loan is exactly zero’d out. But it would take an incredible 530,000 DP to get fifty three gold coins.

Since there was a difference in the exchange rates, it’s best to use money for money and DP for DP.

It’s better to earn enough DP to pay it back.

“Since we’re mostly even if I used the collateral, you could just pay it back eventually with the inn’s business you know? You even have sugar to sell you know?”

“... Even though that’s also true, I’ve still been anxious about it. I can’t sleep calmly when I’m anxious.”

Now then, I have an idea to make money. Remember the beet-radish field I made before?

Those beet-radishes were finally harvested the other day. We’ll be making sugar from now on.

“Sugar is a treasure... so it’ll definitely become a lot of DP!”

“Oh, but you got those seeds with DP... will it be alright?”

“Even gold coins bought with DP can turn back into DP, so it’s theoretically alright... The only question is how much DP it’ll become, I guess.”

First I turned one of them into DP as-is... it became 5 DP.

“Ooh, it went up, it went up!”

Since one seed set (5 DP) can be harvested as fifty radishes, even just that is a

fifty-fold return.

I wonder if it'll be worth even more when it's refined into sugar?

...

Huh? How do you refine it into sugar?

*

Even though it was crazy hard, I managed to make some kind of brownish mass of sugar.

Rokuko saved me after I messed up twice by saying, "Come to think of it, couldn't you get the recipe with DP?" ... It cost 20 DP to buy.

After I crushed it into small pieces, I put it into hot water to boil it down and dissolve the sugar.

"That was very tough."

"Yeah, thanks for helping out Kinue-san."

Kinue-san had also helped with the cooking work. I mean, she's really skilled. If Kinue-san didn't help I probably would've burned it a few times at the least.

"Hey Kehma. Why do you attach [San] to Kinue?"

"... Just because? Well, no, she's turned into something like the dorm mother for the employee dormitory."

She has this gentle atmosphere and loves to clean, so she's overflowing with a motherly feeling.

When I gave her a bamboo broom, she'd go outside and sweep on her own volition.

"Now then, the sugar's... brown, but how do you make it white?"

Unfortunately, the recipe ended at the point of making the sugar. For now, I converted one beet-radish's portion into DP.
... 10 DP huh. It doubled.

"Got our money's worth from the recipe. Guess I'll leave it to golems... Kinue-san, please give directions to the golems."

"Certainly, master."

Well, with this forty-seven beet-radishes became 470 DP.

With that, 5 DP becomes 500 DP... Yep, isn't that awesome? If I sold it to a merchant, it'd probably be even more efficient by turning the money into DP. That means one hundred of them are worth 50,000 DP... Maybe I should expand the field? No, couldn't I make a field in the dungeon? Kukuku, the agricultural king dungeon... sounds nice. It really sounds like an idyllic and peaceful dungeon.

"But how many days does that take? You said 500 DP, but doesn't locking a human party up in the magic sword test room for even a single day get that a lot faster?"

... Which reminds me. There's that aristocrat and his party of followers that's been locked up since yesterday. They're giving us 500 DP a day. Since they're locked up with a jail door too, with the prison effect (x3) and locked-up effect (x2), we're getting six times the normal amount.

"Isn't it better to think about another way?"

"No, well, yeah, I guess..."

Dammit, even though I thought that I'd come up with a perfect strategy...

*

And so I changed plans, deciding to sell Ontentoo a figurine made with a golem.

It sold.

When I called Ontentoo—

"I'm in possession of a Tsuia Mountain dragon figurine. How about giving it to Redra as a present?"

Then, when I showed him the gold-plated dragon figurine—

[Heeh, that thing there's nice, Redra'd like it.]

He bought it for asking price.

Even though I just started out with 100,000 DP...

[Well that's about right yeah? Hahaha.]

He paid it in full with a hearty laugh.

100,000 DP. Thinking about the 5 DP sweet-roll assortment, that'd be worth around 10,000,000 yen.

A ridiculous price! Just what the heck is he doing for income?

And so I obtained 100,000 DP and repaid the loan. It ended so easily it's kind of anticlimactic...

... What was my anxiety for!

"But didn't it take you three days to make that gold-plated figurine?"

"No no, it's just comparing these three days' income... against the laborious agriculture that finally gave 500 DP..."

"You definitely aren't suited for agriculture, you know."

That's right, I am a dungeon master after all. Agriculture is just an extra.

But I can still get fresh vegetables, let's have the golems keep on working the fields from now on. Maybe I should sell the beet-radishes to merchants as sugar?

... I-it's not like I'm attached to it! It's just a side job! And even dust can build up into a mountain you know!?

Chapter 88 - Aristocrat's Rescue Party

Now then, that aristocrat from the other day is still trapped in there. There's been little development.

... Unfortunately, they haven't gotten to the point of killing each other yet. It looks like they're starting to thin out since their food's ran out though. There hasn't been any developments in the dungeon, but there has been outside of it. A search party came. There were ten people in it. I think that's a moderate number. Rather, to comment on it, that's a troubling amount.

The rescue group called themselves elite guardsmen knights and each were in uniforms. They seem to be composed of E-Rank to C-Rank adventurers to dive into the dungeon. Their DP feels great... that's about the only good thing I can see about these guys though. Really, these guys have horrible manners.

*

Like when they came to the inn, they surrounded the counter with all ten of them like they were trying to coerce us. On the other hand, Ichika who was working at the reception desk handled them easily. It didn't turn into much of a situation. She didn't live a life that eventually lead to her becoming a slave just for show, she has guts. I might've wet myself if it were me.

(According to Ichika, it seems she's seriously afraid of getting surrounded by debt collectors.)

"Yaho~. Welcome to [Dancing Doll's Pavilion]~"

"We are the Rich family's third elite guardsmen knight order. We will rent this inn's rooms, be thankful."

With that, the simple search party's commanding officer threw back his head with an arrogant air of superiority.

Ichika just let it slide and explained the fees.

"Heheh~, one person's fifty copper, meals excluded. I guarantee their deliciousness though~"

"Haah? Fifty copper per person and meals are extra!? ... I'll have you know that we are the Rich family's third elite guardsmen knight order!"

"Mmm, so what?"

"Wha—... I said that we are the Rich family's third elite guardsmen knight order!"

I wonder, is [The Rich Family's Third Elite Guardsmen Knight Order] something amazing? Maybe it's something like a coupon that saves you money when you mention it?

Well, it's not like it'll work at all at this inn though. It's management is someone from another world.

It's probably better to get payment in advance, these guys seems like the type to say they'll pay later and just run away.

"The Rich family's third elite guardsmen knight order huh... Heh~, the adventurer guild branch office nearby will hear about ya later~"

"Gu—... whatever, the food from such a cheap inn like this would be unappetizing anyways! We don't need food!"

"Yah yah, then that's... one~ two~ three~... ten people huh?"

Ichika got them to behave themselves somehow by saying she'd tattle on them to the adventurer guild. Good job!

Even if it's for a rescue, it's really effective for adventurers that dive into dungeons.

The search party's commander then put four silver and fifty copper on the counter. Seriously, he's petty.

"It's fifty per person y'know? Rich Family's Third Elite Guardsmen Knight Order-sa~n?"

"Tch—, greedy Paveueran..."

He bitterly placed the last fifty copper coins on the counter... doesn't this fall

under travel expenses? This Rich family must be pretty stingy.

“Oi, woman. You’re coming to my room later to have a good time.”

“Ah, we don’t have that kind of service here. Help yourself if it’s between you guest knights~”

“... You know we are the Rich family’s third elite guardsmen knight order?”

We get that you’re some kind of knight order already.

Well, it’s a good thing I got a hunch and had Ichika work at reception. The newbies wouldn’t have been able to deal with them.

Rather... the heck did Ichika-san mean by saying ‘between you guest knights’?

Giving up because Ichika easily dealt with whatever he said, he quietly accepted keys to five twin rooms, the Knight Order-donos (delinquents) walked to their rooms. First stage success.

Then after that, it became mealtime.

Even though he said that he wouldn’t need food, he came to the dining room at meal time.

Meat was the one to deal with him there.

“Oi, give us food. I paid.”

The hell you did!

Ah, unintentionally felt like standing up and tsukkomi’ing him. I’d just happened to come to the dining room to eat a meal.

I mean, we have a meal ticket system here. Since you need to hand over a meal ticket to receive your meal, if you don’t have a ticket you won’t be served. It’s the same thing even if you lose your ticket somehow. Well, if you bought the meal ticket at the reception desk and explained it properly it would be worked out, but right now only an idiot would forget that guy’s remark.

“Do you have a meal ticket? If you don’t have one, please purchase it again at the reception desk.”

“Fucking kid! So cheeky even though you’re just a filthy beastkin!”

The self-proclaimed knight commander lunged at Meat who gave him the template answer exactly as the manual told her to.

Filthy? Meat is way cleaner than you guys. She has to smell good to be a hug

pillow to sleep with after all.

“Come here, I’ll educate you!”

“I’ll decline.”

Meat easily avoided the self-proclaimed knight leader’s attempt to grasp her arm. He looked very uncool there.

As expected, he was very self-aware about that. He tried to catch her again, but was easily avoided yet again.

The other guests that had come to eat were whistling and cheering her magnificent evasion performance like it was a show.

“Guh—, defying me even though you’re just a beastkin!? Don’t you know what the Rich family’s third elite guardsmen knight order is!?”

“I do not know.”

Yep, I didn’t tell Meat since I don’t know either. Maybe someone will explain to us just how great they are sooner or later?

“The Rich family could easily crush an inn like this!”

“Is that so?”

I’d told Meat to properly ignore whatever he said.

Rather, for argument’s sake, even if that Rich family can crush this inn... don’t you just work for them? This guy’s just saying whatever he wants to boast.

“But yeahhh... right, your body’s more or less good looking, that’ll work. Be happy, give your body to me and I won’t have this inn crushed.”

The heck are you saying to a little girl, oi. You have no integrity.

“I’ll decline.”

“... You don’t care what happens to this inn then?”

... He’s gradually turning into an eyesore. The other guests are also getting pretty irritated.

And so, I stood up in front of Meat as though to protect her and addressed the self-proclaimed knight commander.

“Oi, you. Cut it out.”

“Aaah!? The hell are you, don’t you know that we are—”

“This inn’s sponsor is the A-Rank adventurer, [White Winged Goddess]. Saying such thoughtless remarks, she might just decide that the Rich family is a very pesky thing?”

Startled, he stopped movement for a moment.

“... I-is that true? [White Winged Goddess], backing an inn like this?”

“Yeah, she often comes to stay. It’s not a lie, you can go hear it from the guild if you want. They won’t hide it, you’ll learn about it pretty fast... so, you get how bad it’d be to make trouble? Would that Rich family protect you if you made enemies with an A-Rank adventurer?”

The color of blood drained from his face. The power of an A-Rank adventurer’s title is crazy...

“I-I wish to express my thanks for the information...”

He coughed before continuing.

“I-I just remembered that I have some business elsewhere, I must be going.”

Thus, he promptly withdrew.

“You did good.”

“Should’a helped sooner!”

“Aren’t you embarrassed by relying on~ the~ goddess~?”

While the guests called out with a few teases, I returned to my seat while patting Meat’s head.

“Goshujin-sama, thank you.”

“What, that’s my duty from the start... It’d be good if they behaved themselves now...”

“Hyah—, y-yes... that’s right.”

While I played with Meat’s doggy ears with my fingers, for some reason I had a hunch that it probably wouldn’t work out like that.

*

... Well.

Really, even though it would’ve been good if they behaved themselves, that self-proclaimed knight commander just shut himself up in his room and his

subordinates are doing whatever they please.

Particularly when they enter the bath, they don't use [Cleanup], they swim around, they make a ton of noise and annoy everyone near them, and when they get out of the bath they leave food scattered about the floor in the lounge. Even in the game room, they beat against the slot machine and tried to steal the playing cards. Come on.

When it comes to the entertainment business, just that much is just barely tolerable.

What I won't tolerate is them trying to take my futons without permission. Something huge like that would definitely get exposed. However, that would've required them to think a little.

They tried to slice the futons in half and divide the work and take them home.

Ichika noticed it when she was casually going down the hallway and sweeping, she stopped them just before they cut them... those guys, even without their self-proclaimed knight commander they tried twisting our arms by saying, "We are the Rich family's third elite guardsmen knight order!" The self-proclaimed knight commander stopped them with a pale face though, yep. It's already no use. They've crossed the line that I can't forgive.

They tried to cut my futons into pieces and steal them. There's no way I could forgive that, right?

And so, I decided to welcome them into my dungeon.

Chapter 89 - Welcoming the Intruders 1

“Fuck’s sake, why’d I gotta dogeza!”

“Didn’t you hear it from the commander? They’re supported by an A-Rank adventurer.”

“No way that’s right, why woulda A-Rank adventurer come to a place like this? The commander’s unexpectedly susceptible eh.”

“Oi, he’ll hear you.”

“Ah— crap.”

The Rich family’s third knight order. Even though they appeared like that, they were knights that serve Earl Rich... they were an assortment of adventurers being put to use as fighters. Like this time, their tasks included dungeon search and rescues.

This time, they received a report from the Rich family’s second son, Doran, by way of the guild that they were to rush over because, “The third son, Drason, has met an accident in the dungeon.” For rescuing someone from a dungeon, time was of the essence. Therefore, they made certain to act quickly so that they could later use the excuse that they took the proper measures.

By the way, as for the ‘Elite Guardsmen’ part of the ‘Third Elite Guardsmen Knight Order’... that was a self-proclaimed title with the reason being: it sounded cool. Meaning... no one in the group knew what it was supposed to mean.

“Oi, that’s a trap right there. Be careful.”

“Ah yeah. Since us third elite guardsmen knight order are the ones doing it, even dungeon rescue operations are easy as hell... Not if they’re still alive, though.”

It was rare for rescue operations for dungeons to succeed.

All items disappear completely if they die in the dungeon. You can't locate something that doesn't exist. Usually, people would search for two or three days before proclaiming something like, "Since we were unable to find them, it seems that they've died in the dungeon."

Because of this, for them, this 'Rescue Operation' was basically a way to get some pocket change from the dungeon before ending it with a suitable report... it was really easy to think of it as easy work.

"Commander~, think that stupid Son-sama still alive?"

"No way. He definitely died some time ago somewhere in the dungeon. If he did manage to live somehow together with those followers of his, well... I'd probably've killed him on the second day?"

"Yeah haha, there's no way. Really, that stupid Son-sama is way too useless."

"The family's already decided that the eldest son, Kandra-sama, is going to succeed. Kandra-sama even already has an heir too, so the Rich family is happy with him."

The Rich family's inheritor was decided to be the eldest son, Kandra. Since Kandra had already had a son, the family was secure. Therefore, the only way the third son, Drason, could become the head of the family would be for him to accumulate achievement after achievement.

Naturally, since he hadn't returned from the dungeon after leaving to find a magic sword in it, it didn't need to be said that that was also impossible.

"Well that's fine ain't it? There'd be no more idiot, ain't it fine to just think of it like that?"

"Kukuku, gotta point there."

They spoke ill of Drason, who was definitely the person they served and the family head's relative.

Though they acted like that, they didn't know that even they were considered the parasitic idiot knight order by the next head of the family, Kandra.

*

[But man it sucked I couldn't play around with that woman... no choice but to save up some more money.]

[That slot machine thing was the worst. Already lost the reward we're getting

for this...]

[Those playing cards, I only took one of 'em, sucks I couldn't get more...]

Those guys, they're just doing whatever they want. And that playing card... So they stole after all huh... have to set up some countermeasures for that.

Well, although I decided that today will be a welcoming party for those guys, today's labyrinth area is special. I'm even letting them pass by the riddle area. Maybe I'll try out the unexplored area's traps and defensive functions.

[Oh—, there's golems. Just like we heard. Get 'em! ... Ah, they ran away!]
[Don't chase them. This is a labyrinth ya know?]
[Eh, right...]

While instigating them with some moderate golems, I guided them through a path to break through the labyrinth.
I let Rei and them operate the golems, this also served as practice.

“Master, is it fine guiding them like this?”
“You're doing fine. Just keep changing their path by leading them on with the golems... Here, look. They've met back up.”

The knight order (delinquents) had divided their group of ten into two groups of five to search. As planned, we made sure that they met back up at labyrinth's exit so it looks like they were guided well.

[Oh? Your team also came huh. Good timing.]
[As expected of us... So, looks like its pretty much unexplored areas next?]
[Hoh, sounds great... Though, it's dangerous too. What do we do?]

... Hmm, so all the same they're careful huh. Will they bite the bait?

[Nn? Oi, check it out.]
[... That's a treasure chest huh. Pawn, go check it out.]
[Yah!]

A scout named Pawn opened the treasure chest while being vigilant.... As for its contents—

[Oh—, a weapon! A knife... there's a magic stone in it, it's a magic sword! Commander, can I have this!?!]

[Alright, good job Pawn. Now, I'll be taking that.]

[But...]

[It's fine since we're splitting the money up afterwards yeah? ... Oi, look. Seems to be some more treasure chests inside. Or rather, there aren't any traps around here?]

[From the looks of it, nope. I heard there's a riddle somewhere... maybe it's farther in?]

Ah, looks like they fell for the simple chests I set up to guide them in. The knight order (delinquents) are moving farther and farther in. They're so reckless it's doubtful that they're really even C-Rank.

... Maybe it's better this way?

[Ooh! Woah, this is a magic sword too! There's one here too!]

[That makes the fifth one! Hahaha, I can't stop smiling anymore!]

Yep, looking good. It's good they're so stupid. Well, once they'd went sufficiently far inside, I quietly closed the first room's door.

... They put a door wedge on it, but there's no problem since I'll just collect it. Rather, why did they bring a wedge? Is that a C-Rank thing?

The riddle area was in full effect once the door closed.

Originally, the door to the room wouldn't open if the riddle wasn't solved. You could only enter the first and last rooms without solving them. This was the [Four Room Series of Riddle Rooms].

Furthermore, the riddle question followed the usual pattern, whenever a door was opened, it would change to another question. Which meant you couldn't come and go just by solving it once.

.. Well, in other words, the knight order (delinquents) would be confined in the [Riddle Area] from now on. The DP we're getting from them doubled.

I wonder if the amount of DP we get when they die doubles as well? It's a good opportunity. Let's try it out this time.

[Oi, we can't go back!]

[Huh? Hold up, where's the doorstep!?]

[It's not there... I've never heard something like them disappearing this fast. It should've lasted a day at least...]

[Did we overlook some special mechanism? No, maybe a monster moved it?]

[I dunno, but at any rate, the riddle appeared when the door closed.]

What, so it was an item like that? ... Now that I think about it, there was something like that written in the [Introduction to the Study of Dungeons] too, crap. I forgot. Looks like Haku-san that as fake common sense like with the [Safety Zone] too? I'll make sure to have a golem remove them from now on. Mice should work too?

[... What now? Looks like we can't leave without solving the riddle?]

[Yeah. But look, can you solve it?]

This time's question was a special one. Anyone could answer it, I prepared a super simple question.

['How many steps are in the spiral staircase beyond this point, as well as what color is the door at the bottom?'... The fuck?]

[Thankfully, the door that continues on is open... Looks like there's no choice but to keep going.]

Hello~, this is our ten honored guests' guide speaking~.

Chapter 90 - Welcoming the Intruders 2

The correct answer was just the amount of steps and the matching color of the door at the bottom... but since they couldn't see it from the top, they wouldn't be able to know without descending. That was the plan.

[There's no way to solve it without going further into the dungeon, eh... like we're getting invited in.]

[Shit, were we too careless? We should've known there'd be a bit difference from how [Ordinary Cave] used to be.]

[Oi! Focus up if you don't want to die! This is no longer an E-Rank dungeon—think of it as an A-Rank grade dungeon and don't wander off!]

Whoops! Looks like they're fired up now.

... Well, it's fine. I'll just have them give their all to assess this place's performance.

So for now, the knight order (delinquents) advanced through the [Spiral Staircase Area]. With a hole down the middle of it, the spiral staircase was made up of wooden footholds that sprung from the walls in a spiral shape. Step by step, they verified that the boards wouldn't fall... their concern is justified. There are some that would fall if it held a person's full weight.

[There are some fake footholds mixed in. Watch your step!]

[Yeah. Let's advance careful... Should we count the fakes too?]

Step by step, they slowly advanced while checking their footing. Well, they won't be able to continue like this though.

"Now then, Rei. Kinue-san. Nerune... Enemies have entered the [Spiral

Staircase Area]—Push them off.]

“”” Understood, master! “””

This spiral staircase area was open. Other than it looking awesome, there was another, more proper, reason for this.

As for what was prepared there, they were bulky—incredibly bulky, larger than the width of the staircase—stone wall golems.

Then, targeting the knight order (delinquents) that were descending the open spiral staircase, the stone wall golems that were buried in the wall made their appearance. The reaction, simply put—

[Uwah!? M-move quick! It's a trap!]

[W-wai—, go back!]

[Idiot, this way too... u-uwaaah!]

They were pushed and fell. Simple as that. The were four people that had fallen behind from being too preoccupied with the fake steps were pushed down by stone wall golems and fell through the open hole in the center... as for how far the drop was, it was from the second above ground floor to the third underground floor. Though they were working on descending the staircase, those four people that fell were the highest up and dropped four floors' worth of height and fell really fast. When they reached the floor, they turned into red blotches that would've needed mosaics to cover up.

The amount of DP we got was the amount of four E-Rank adventurers' worth... Hmm, doesn't look like it doubled even if they're made to be confined.

But still... uwaah, that was way more dangerous than expected. Slaughtering the bandits when I came to this world, at this point I don't feel any guilt. However, it still looks awful. All four of them were wearing armor, but all four of their heads popped open. Gross. It's at the level where even late-night anime would hide it with black shadows. Ugh... well, looks like I'm not eating any meat today...

[Tch, so four people got caught huh.]

[Whatever we do, we can't turn back.]

[... ... No, look. They've already turned back into walls... How abrupt it was was surprising, but the speed that they come out isn't too fast. They take a moment to come out. If we run past them in one go, we should probably be

able to get back up before they come out. We can also descend like that.]

... The remaining people: six. As expected of a commander's character, he seems calm.

They collected valuables and equipment from the dead bodies. What amazing mental fortitude, I want to learn that from them.

"Sorry, only four of the people were able to be pushed off."

"No, that much is fine. Instead, it's good that you pushed four people off... Now for the other six. How about we have some combat training?"

I installed a haniwa golem onto the spiral staircase. Originally, it was meant to be a boss monster, but it'll never get its chance to make its debut as one and is now a sorrowful existence. I had the cavalry-style haniwa golem slowly walk down the spiral staircase.

[Oh, there's that door at the bottom. Red huh? Alright, guess we should head back. How many steps were there?]

[... One hundred and sixty. As for whether or not to include the topmost step and the bottom one... wait, commander. Something's coming. It should be at the unique level at the least.]

[From above? Where did it come from? ... What is it?]

[No idea, this is the first time I've seen that shape, there's an unknown number of them. Please be on guard.]

As for the haniwa golem, it was an armored golem that was mounted on a horse golem. Its face was a haniwa. The golem's design was that of a knight that protects my quiet sleep.

Although it's usually roaming around however it wants on auto mode, right now, Meat is controlling it.

"Then, I'll be showing this as an example, so please watch."

Step by step, the haniwa grandly made its way down the staircase... however, it jumped down the center hole as soon as the remaining six people assumed battle postures.

Although it probably could have been a surprise attack, since this was so that Rei and the other newbies could practice controlling the golems, I decided to have Meat, who was already a complete veteran at piloting them, show off as

an example.

Erasing the impact from crashing against the ground by using the horse's sufficient legs, it removed the long and slender halberd magic sword golem from its back in a smooth motion. The large armored golem was about one and a half times larger than an ordinary human and came with a horse golem to match. The size difference came with an overpowering feeling.

Although it was enclosed by six armed people, the golem wasn't agitated in the least. As though it had eyes in the back of its head—in truth, there were no blind spots due to looking through the monitor—the atmosphere froze as though nothing would be permitted to move.

“I'm going.”

Meat's mutter was something for us. In the next moment, the horse golem dashed forward alone as though shot from a gun, sending one person flying into the wall. Just one blink of the eye later, the armored golem that landed on the ground swung its halberd horizontally at knee height.

Two of the people's reaction times were delayed due to being surprised by the horse golem. Suddenly, they found themselves severed from the knees down, slipping and falling towards the ground.

[Gaaah!! Commander! Save meee!]

[Run! —The staircase is blocked, towards the interior!]

As the haniwa golem—as Meat planned, she blocked off the staircase. The first person that the horse golem charged had fainted. That person was being trampled by the horse golem, taking up the area in front of the stairs. In addition, the armored golem wielded its halberd as though to defend that path. Their escape was sealed off... At the same time, three people were instantly incapacitated.

As our DP still hasn't increased yet, they still aren't dead. The other half will be left for the newbies' tactical training. My orders were perfectly obeyed, magnificent work!

The three remaining people ran into the golem warehouse.

“... That was perfect.”

“Thank you very much, Goshujin-sama.”

... Rather, what the heck—!? The horse golem could be shot out and move that fast!?

Although I sacrificed its output by using gears for now so that it could move faster, how the heck did you just do that, Meat? How!?

“When you operate all of the joints at the same time, with flowing body movements, the whole body will shoot. Adding the initial kick off, the acceleration increases further... I practiced this with Rokuko-sama. This is a technique that even Rokuko-sama can use. You should be able to do this much if it’s a boss.”

Meat explained to the three newbies so that they could learn it. When did she have the time... wait, is it while I’m sleeping? I thought that I was the best at using golems, guess not.

“Those three people, what should be done to them? Goshujin-sama.”
“... I’ll add a jail to the golem warehouse. Neutralize and throw them in there. We’ll exploit their DP until they die... drive them there while fighting them. Don’t lose, defeat them. There are various golems, so try out various things.”
“”” Yes, master! “””

Iron golems and stone golems were earnestly chasing them around the golem warehouse area’s passageway. There were ones that were in the shape of animals, ones with four arms, ones with four legs, ones with bows and arrows or spears, none of the golems had ordinary features.

[Shit, shit, what are these monsters, the fuck, why, why are they chasing us!?]
[W-we can’t do this!]
[Hiiii!? Pincushion!? Uwah, stay away, stay away!]

“This four-legged golem is slow, but it is very stable for aiming with a bow.”
“A broom isn’t a suitable weapon for a golem, is it?”
“Heeeh~, this hedgehog golem is awesome even just by running with it~, so pleasant~”

I had the three use whatever golems I made as prototypes that they liked to chase them into the designated check point.

At that point—

[Uwah! A-a web, shit, can’t see—]

[Tear it off!]

[Igyaaaah! Gu—, shit, there's thorns—]

[Oi, they're behind us! Quickly!]

[Uwaaaah! They're, they're coming—!]

Setting up traps, the haniwa golem took a roundabout path.
Chasing them, pushing them onward, we had them do nothing but run onward.

[Haah, haah, shit, this is... t-this—]

Then, they barely managed to reach the spiral staircase room in the end. It was their only way back.

[It's a different room... or not... but there's none of their corpses. Are they already gone?]

[This dungeon is strange, and dangerous!]

[I will make it back alive... the number of stairs, count again! Don't make a mistake counting! Watch out for the walls! ...—! It's that guy, that guy's cooomiiiiing!!]

The haniwa golem urged them on just to make doubly sure they'd go. Step by step, the golem's characteristically thudding footsteps echoed towards them. The walls let them climb the stairs back up without coming out. Though since there were still fake steps, they kept slipping.

“Master, are you sure? Even though they'll be able to return home?”
“No, they won't be able to return... if they did return, they'd definitely have this dungeon become a dangerous spot for beginners... I'll show you a bit of a trick, so please enjoy yourselves.”

Then, the three remaining finally arrived back at the riddle room.

[It's the riddle, hurry before that guy gets here—! How many steps did you count!? I got one hundred and sixty!]

[Me too! A hundred sixty!]

[One sixty! The door is red!]

[Alright, let's an—... swer...?]

The three people froze. In front of them was a riddle.
However, it wasn't a question about how many steps there were and what the

door's color was.

[... “This is a special question where the answer is [Easy]! What is $25 + 39$?” ...
Eh? The heck is this...]

[The question changed!? ... But as expected of me, I know this too! It's sixty-six!]

The moment that the commander answered with that, the room's floor was replaced with a pitfall.

... He had an expression on like he was asking why, but I didn't expect him to make that particular mistake either you know?

Chapter 91 - Did it...

Making a mistake with his math, the delinquents fell into the spiderweb trap. ... Well either way though, he would've failed since the answer was [Easy]. At any rate, all of them were neutralized with this.

Phew. My work's over, feels like a heat that's been clinging to my body is going away... Yep, I calmed down.

"Hey Kehma. I thought of something, wouldn't they be pretty vigilant if something like ten adventurers sent in together don't return?"

"... Th-that's right."

It's as Rokuko says.

If I calm down and think about it, that party of ten people contained at least two C-Rank adventurers. It wouldn't be strange for them to consider the dungeon to be pretty hard. I may have raged a little there. Those guys almost wounded the Futon-sans.

"... Were you irritated since they tried to do stuff to Ichika and Meat?"

"No, it was because of the Futon-sans. It was for my lovely Futon-sans."

"If you like them that much, well it's fine?"

Mm, yep. I wouldn't get irritated from someone making a move on Ichika or Meat... well, maybe not. Now that I think about it, maybe. I gave a direct warning to that knight commander for Meat or something, it was something dangerous for me.

So in other words, yes... crap, I wasn't thinking at all. I repent!

"Hey hey, Kehma. Would you massacre them all assuming they had a quarrel

with me?”

“That’s a dangerous-sounding question... Well, I half-killed them. Half aren’t dead. Rather, around sixty percent are still alive.”

“But they’re going to die eventually from DP being wrung from them you know?”

“... Well, yeah.”

“Kehma massacred the bandits for my sake, he’d definitely annihilate anyone that tries to pick a quarrel with me!”

Rokuko smiled in a pleasant way that felt full of innocence.

Huh, did what she just say sound weird at all? Like, aggressively violent...

However, since I’ve already placed the traps, there’s no way those guys will be able to return alive. So it’s a wholesale murder in the end huh~... maybe I’ve gotten a pretty wicked side too. In a certain game, I’d be leaning towards chaotic. It’ll be bad if I don’t hit the brakes at a moderate point. I want to stay neutral to the bitter end.

“Goshujin-sama. Everyone, they were stored in the jail.”

“Ah, good work... However, you’ve gotten good at operating golems, Meat. When did you make such an improvement?”

When I stroked Meat’s head, her tail wagged back and forth happily.

... My heart calms down when I stroke Meat. Maybe the equation’s Meat = pillow = sense of security at this point?

Right, Meat is my important bedding! That’s why there’s nothing wrong with me getting upset if someone tries to make a pass at her! I am not a lolicon!

“Nnnu♪... For Goshujin-sama, I did my best, to be useful... It’s hot recently, so since sometimes I couldn’t be your hug pillow, I... hauu♪”

“Jiii...”

While I was patting Meat’s head as she let out delighted sounds, Rokuko stared at me with slightly condemning eyes.

... Yep, sorry. I was just feeling a bit relieved there.

“So, what’ll you do to those guys you caught?”

“Hmm...”

It’d be extremely troublesome to look after the prisoners myself. Besides, it’d

leave various bad aftertastes with me. It'd hinder my peaceful sleep.
Alright! Let's leave this to my subordinates!

"Rei, there is work for you. As the jailer, I entrust those guys' care to you. I will include golems as assistant jailers, go moderately on them."

"Yes! Please leave it to me, master! May I drink their blood!?"

"Nn? Sure. Go for it. I don't really mind if they die."

"Yay! ... Ah, s-sorry, thank you very much!"

Come to think of it, Rei is a vampire huh. I remembered that fact now at this late hour.

I mean originally, humans were fodder for Rei. That's why it seems vampires have the know-how to [Own] humans in their head.

It might be useful for Rei to come here. It's good that her being a vampire may not be in vain, she might be able to power up by drinking blood!

I should think about a device that works in the dungeon so that it isn't exposed. Not a slave collar, more like a prisoner collar I guess? Yeah, it should be fine if I make it with a golem. Something like a pillory that turns into a guillotine with an order.

"... Incidentally, so you wanted to drink blood as a vampire after all? I thought there was that option that invalidated that impulse though."

"That's right, I don't need to. However, master, imagine having a body that didn't have to sleep."

"Ah, yep. I'd sleep. Definitely would. I would absolutely sleep."

I definitely understand her. [Unnecessary] and [Unwanted] are different things. It's like the feeling of not dying if there was bread even though you loved cake.

Even so, our DP income skyrocketed huh.
To be precise, our current income of 500 DP per day became 1,800 DP per day. That's three hundred sixty percent.
About 1300 DP from six prisoners. So we could get this much huh. Double from being locked up and triple from being in a prison. There's no way to describe how seriously awesome six times as much is.

"In other words, might as well live today in luxury! Melon roll party tonight,

no objections allowed!”

“Rokuko-sama, I’d like to eat hamburgers too. And curry rolls for Ichika too.”

“I’ll allow it!”

What happened to no objections allowed? Well, whatever, it’s fine.

If that’s the case maybe I should offer various kinds of breads tonight. Not sweetened buns, but the kinds of baked goods you can find at bakeries. Sometimes luxury is good too!

“... Ah, we got DP. Someone died~”

“Nn? It didn’t look like those guys whose legs were chopped off would die that fast since their wounds were cauterized shut... Oh. The aristocrat huh?”

When I looked at the situation in the test room, the aristocrat... his name was Drason I think? Well, he was attacked by his followers. And although he held the magic sword till the end, the followers that surrounded him successfully returned it to the pedestal and cancelled the lock down.

There was still some of the aristocrat’s blood smeared over the magic sword that was placed back in the pedestal, but the scene was somehow moving. The men had faces like they’d just overcome a difficult journey.

Yep yep, they worked hard. Let’s cancel labyrinth’s blockade as a reward.

Since I’m feeling like doing something kind right now, how about I let them go straight out?

By the way, after being saved, they could use the excuse that the noble died. Although they could... since there are magic tools that can distinguish lies, they’ll probably be arrested immediately after getting interrogated.

Well, I’m not responsible for that you know? That’s something outside of my dungeon.

Chapter 92 - Information From Haku-san

Several days after the sad event of the aristocrat's murder in the dungeon (it seems the criminals confessed), Haku-san came to visit again.

How does this person possibly have this much free time? Well, even though I thought that, it seemed she had some business today as well.

She called me and Rokuko together to a room and looked at us while holding on to some cream soda.

"A hero is coming this time."

It was shocking information.

"Eh, a hero? ... Seriously?"

"Would I tell you a lie? Well, I understand how you feel though."

"Huh? You usually say [God's Vanguard], not [Hero] though? Haku Ane-sama."

"Rokuko-chan is wise. Yes, since he has already went through brainwashing training, he's already under my control. You don't have to worry about many things."

I let out my breath, slightly relieved. Let's not pay attention to her mentioning brainwashing.

"There is a fool that performed the hero summoning ritual in my country at his own volition... Although he was barely an aristocrat, my plans went slightly awry and thanks to that I was able to come visit Rokuko-chan. His assets have been seized and the present head of the family was executed."

Excuse me, your plans went awry from seizure and execution so you could meet Rokuko? Wait that's not it, a hero summoning done on their own, is that

fine? Is it?

Rather, a hero summoning is something that can be done that easily?

“It’s normally not something that can be done like that, it takes quite the preparation... Perhaps you understand if I spoke in terms of DP? 50,000,000,000 DP.”

This time, it seems to have been done with a special item that was used as compensation, [God’s Tear].

According to her, the item itself didn’t have much of a value, it was something that could be used to pay the cost of summoning a hero. Like a hero voucher or something.

“Why did that aristocrat summon a hero?”

“Likely for distinguished services, he was eyeing a piece of land that fell directly in the demon king’s territory, and if the demon was defeated by throwing the hero at him... well, it was like that.”

Demon king. Fantasy just came and slapped me in the face.

“By the way, the demon king’s true identity is Dungeon Core No. 6. His dungeon’s name is [Demon King’s Castle], a castle-type dungeon.”

So the demon king is a dungeon core too? I heard something like that a while back, but it was true? ... Huh? Wasn’t it said that it was already defeated?

“That was probably No. 66. The same type of dungeon core as No. 6, it was one of the demon king’s followers. There are some other followers as well... Perhaps it could be called the demon king faction?”

So dungeon cores have factions? ... Let’s join Haku-san’s faction. We’ve gotten so much DP from her there’s no complaints from me.

“Well it’s fine, back on topic, that is why a god’s vanguard... a hero was summoned.”

“‘Was’, huh, that phrasing is a little worrying. When did the summoning happen?”

“A guess should be alright. For the past three years, he has trained in that territory. Although he seems to have been educated as according to the [Hero Training Manual] I tentatively made... Although I wouldn’t have gone so far as

to punish him for being in my presence if he properly reported it, it seems he thought that it would make for an outstanding achievement if he did so after defeating the demon king. The head of the family even two generations ago would have been less objectionable, as expected, humans are no good when the generations move on.”

Haku-san grumbled in complaint by the end there.
How old is she? I didn't think that. If I thought that, she'd kill me. Thus I didn't think it.

By the way, as for Haku-san's carefully produced [Hero Training Manual], it was made for the sake of teaching god's vanguard [Dungeons That Are Fine to Destroy] and [Dungeons That Are Not Fine to Destroy]. It was a very convenient way (for Haku-san) to plant knowledge in them.

Ah, by the way our dungeon's previous name of [Ordinary Cave], as well as the current [Cave of Desires] is in the do-not-break category when going to the adventurers guild to find out. The empire's foundation, Haku-san's [White Labyrinth], goes without saying.

“... Ah, come to think of it, there are about six intruders captured and confined right now, could we become a [Dungeon That is Fine to Destroy]?”
“If you are exposed, yes. However, have you set up proper countermeasures? There's no problem then.”

It's a jail, but they are perfectly isolated. Their strength is falling, but since they're in a room you can't get to without the dungeon's [Deployment] function, ordinary intruders would never be able to make it to the jail.

Although their strengths should be falling exceptionally, according to Rei, I'm told it's fine since they have bodies that can't run away and will never talk again... so it seems there's no problem. I didn't ask for any details.

Yep, it's fine so long as we aren't exposed. Although I myself rejected it since we didn't have enough people or the know-how, human farms are still really useful facilities. I understand since there are a few people in the palm of my hand already, but just six people gives the huge profit of 1,300 DP per day. Let's be sure to be able to self-destruct them at any time, like a evidence self-destruction switch.

“Well, that hero heard about the method of those playing cards that come from your dungeon. He said that there may be some connection to his former world. According to Kehma-san’s plan, you have lured him in.”

“... Yeah, looks like it.”

Is that so? A dungeon that drops something that comes from the hero’s world would certainly be suspicious.

... Although it looks like I’ve somehow become an amazing tactician in Haku-san’s head, that wasn’t my plan at all. Sorry. It was a simple mistake. Let’s just hide it for now. I shook my head.

“Naturally, fufufu.”

“Well, although I don’t know what you are planning to do with the hero, since the hero coming this time, Nishimi, is under my control... while hiding the things about dungeon cores that’s in the [Introduction to the Study of Dungeons], could you please make best use of him and return him to me?”

“It can’t be helped hmm? Understood.”

“Fufu, I don’t dislike obedient children... Right, if there is something you want, how about I finance you a little?”

In that case please allow me to present to you this garter belt and stocking set —ah, I should stop. I really want to say it though.

... Oi, Rokuko, why are you staring? I won’t say it, I won’t say it!

“Then DP. I want to play around with a few ‘capturing alive anti-hero’ things.”

“As a reward for hearing my request, I will give you 200,000 DP as prepayment.”

This terrifying person can just give away one hundred days’ worth of our current income... that’s four hundred days’ worth of our income just a few days ago.

Moreover, she didn’t forget to tip Rokuko either. That Haku-san, her depths are incomprehensible...

Chapter 93 - Now For Some Remodeling

Well now, even though it's good that we've gotten 200,000 DP from Haku-san, I still haven't decided what to do with it yet.

By the way, saying, "This is a large amount, so it wouldn't be good if any were lost," Haku-san transferred the 200,000 DP mouth-to-mouth. Thanks for the meal.

Since it was a special, how about let's give summoning and raising a slime a go... with that, I looked through the DP catalog.

In this world, there were roughly two varieties of monsters that would have been called slimes in Japan.

One is the jelly. It is genuinely weak. Jellies move their semi-transparent bodies with jelly-like movements, dying quickly. They hardly have any offensive power at all as well. And they're 1 DP each, bizarrely cheap... They also seem to be edible. Maybe they're some kind of pudding or gelatin substitute?

Despite goblins becoming the targets of subjugation commissions, these guys are small fry to the point of being ignored.

Well, the other one is the slime. By being sticky and slimy, they have freely-manipulable bodies that can nullify physical blows. They are 10,000 DP a piece. Their weak point is that they are strangely weak, but they are omnivores that can eat anything. Naturally, they can eat people.

That is what people refer to as a slime in this world. Come to think of it, there were magma slimes in our neighbors' [Flame Cavern] huh.

... As a dungeon for beginners, let's try deploying a few jelly spawners in the dungeon for now. Even though they are one hundred times the monster's initial

cost, it's still just 100 DP. Incredibly cheap.

Seeing as how they can be eaten, it's not a waste. Maybe they'll turn into snacks for adventurers and the goblins?

And for no reason at all, definitely no reason, I summoned a single jelly into my hand. Then, I tried out rubbing it to experiment... Ooh, yep, as expected. It jiggles.

I suddenly thought up something. Abruptly. Since I just came up with it, I made the jelly into a pillow and laid down on it. Ooooooh, its softness is considerably pleasant. This incredibly good pillow probably wouldn't even lose to the heavenly pillow. To get it for 1 DP... cheap...

*

I woke up from my nap since the jelly was crushed, my face was covered in a crust. Looks like the weight of my head caused its body fluids to gradually leak out. This is a point that absolutely needs to be improved. Wrapping it in a cover made with the vinyl wrapping that comes with the sweet buns mightwork? The jelly would still be crushed though.

“Hey Kehma, are the hero countermeasures good?”

“Nn, to be honest, they aren't really needed.”

“They aren't!? You're not going to do anything with the 200,000 DP Haku Ane-sama gave us!?”

Yep, it was allfor hero countermeasures, but there isn't even really a reason to do anything. At most I just needed to make it so that he can't get to the jail. Even if he makes it to the dungeon's innermost floor, destroys the boss iron haniwa golem and steals a few blade magic sword golems, there's no need to worry since he won't destroy the core due to Haku-san's training (brainwashing).

To begin with, the one at the innermost of the dungeon is a dummy core, the real one is in Rokuko's room in the inn. Rather, it's to the point that I don't think it'd be bad to have some crime prevention in Rokuko's room. I'll know immediately if there are any intruders though... I can use castling whenever, I'd usually put it somewhere in the dungeon. I wonder if it's fine keeping this arrangement when the hero comes?

With all of that, it's important to not bring too much attention to our

dungeon by overdoing it. It might be a good opportunity to assess just how capable the hero is.

Speaking of necessary preparations though, it'll probably be fine just making iron haniwa golems and magic swords.

I'm taking a pretty easygoing stance on the matter.

"Well, we did get 200,000 DP, so let's go forward with strengthening the dungeon... To be precise, let's make some new areas."

"Un, what kind of areas are you going to make?"

I've been thinking about two things. A coliseum area and a meadow area. Without hesitation, I put the coliseum area in front of the boss room, also making it so that you could go from the warehouse area to the meadow area. There was a boss room if you advanced to the coliseum area from the warehouse area, and it would be a dead end if you went to the meadow area.

And for the meadow area, when I was talking with Haku-san, she'd told me about the geographical feature facilities for human farms, so I planned to install a [Sky (50,000 DP)] and [Meadow (500 DP)]. They didn't appear in the catalog until she told me about them, but it's probably because there was some kind of condition for them.

Geographical feature installations are applied to the entire floor. For example, [Sky] provides a stream of sunlight, as well as a proper night. It even rains occasionally, it really is a [Sky] huh.

Other geographical features you could get with DP included things like [Coast] and [Volcano]. [Volcano] is a cheap 100 DP, but [Coast] is more than 100,000 DP. I think it's probably so expensive because a sea is something unnatural in a mountain.

It seems that if you make a geographical feature using DP, you could even make it like it was the outside world. Although they're probably installations meant for providing for monsters that rely on certain terrains, you could also use it with the intention of making a human farm that humans won't really want to leave because there's no stress.

Naturally, the [Sky] terrain effect doesn't increase the size of the room, it seems that room's ceiling height is also set by the room's size specifications beforehand. So I intend to make as spacious a room as possible... Let's make it

at the level where a village can fit in it. It'd be plenty even if they just settled down at the entrance.

Rather, I want to check what kind of thing the [Sky] is even though it's a ceiling. I intend to install it in the meadow area anyways.

"So, let's make the meadow area a [Safety Zone] too. It'll be good if they decide to rest in that area. Let's have them have an easy time to rest there... Should we set some rabbits loose too?"

"That's kind to the adventurers."

"Yeah. That's the original role for a [Safety Zone] anyways."

The [Safety Zone]'s original role. That is, a place to make surprise attacks against adventurers that have let down their guard, putting things in order. Of course, monsters normally don't enter them, so it's used as a campground to rest safely in the field. It wouldn't be something good to do every time. It's only effective since it's done rarely.

"Before the boss, they'd decide to rest. When they let down their guard, bang!"

"Well it's like that."

With that, I decided to do some splendid remodeling. Since we'll be excavating a lot of holes with golems first, it'll probably take quite a while. I had them dig carefully while I looked at the map so that we wouldn't knock into [Flame Cavern].

But even though I'm remodeling, right now information for things farther in than the riddle area haven't been leaked out yet. It'll probably just seem like there are more jellies when looking at it from their point of view.

*

"Kehma-sama. There is news."

The next day, Receptionist-san came from the guild.

"You might know already, but there are signs of a transition phase. Please refrain from entering the dungeon for a short while, please stay at the first floor."

"Ah... yes, understood."

Right, transition phase huh... Monsters that usually don't appear come out, that kind of thing... I'm not planning on doing a dungeon battle though... yep, I forgot.

By the way, since they worried about monsters overflowing from the dungeon's entrance, they appear to have set up a cordon. I was also included in the shift. It was treated as a nominated commission from the guild.

Somehow, sorry.

By the way, since the aristocrat's search party hadn't returned either, it turned into something like they got involved in some sort of abnormal event inside of the dungeon. Works for me.

"I see, so that's the reason behind you deploying the jelly spawners huh!"

"No, that was just by chance. Rather, I didn't expect it."

"Eh, that so? That's unusual for Kehma huh, are you still half asleep?"

Maybe. I've probably been forgetful since I've been thinking about various large-scaled things lately and it all caught up to me. Maybe I should get more subordinates to entrust with various things... since I can make as much of a labor force (golems) as needed, I just need people wisdom that can control them. Should I get more subordinates to manage the dungeon?

They don't even really need to be humanoid like those three girls since they'll be restricted to being inside the dungeon. Maybe something like an arachne...? Ah, monsters with wisdom as well as fighting potential usually cost around 100,000 DP. It's at the level of making me hesitate a little. Should I get one? ... Eh, wait a second.

"To begin with, isn't it fine if I leave noticing stuff like that to my partner (Rokuko)?"

"Eh, I should be aware of stuff like that!?"

Rokuko was plainly surprised. Oi, partner. Oi. Somehow before I realized it, I became in charge of thinking while Rokuko became in charge of relaxing.

"Yep, I can make mistakes and forget things too you know?"

"Ahaha, Kehma's good at joking around."

"I'm not kidding you know!? You know that if you took away me being a dungeon master I'd just be a normal human right!?"

“... No way~, ever since Kehma kicked those bandits around, in my opinion everything’ll be alright if I leave it to you. I’ve just been practicing moving the golems.”

I’m surprised she trusts me so much. I just think that I’m a lazybones that just sleeps all the time though.

I should ask for Rokuko’s opinions more often from now on. Or rather, let’s have Rokuko make the dungeon too.

We didn’t have much DP before, but now our wallet’s overflowing from our Haku-san income.

“I got it. I’ll also think about making the dungeon myself.”

“Yeah. Since I’ll be leaving it to Rokuko, it’ll definitely turn into a goblin dungeon. It’d be interesting to see though.”

“It’s not like I’m a goblin lover you know!?”

Diverging from the golem warehouse, Rokuko made a new dungeon.

And as for me, I was dragged into working for the cordon for a little while. I didn’t have the chance to look at how she was doing.

... Rokuko’s dungeon. It was after everything was completed that I learned what was in it.